1	2	3	4
8	Facing competition with private couriers.	Item No. 6 (II) Action Report No. III	The Postal Department should be allowed, irrespective of anything else, enough operational flexibility and independence in such a way that it could be accountable for its responsibilities and be competitative enough.
9	Decline in Postal traffic by 12% since 1988-89.		There is no such recommendation made earlier. It is not correct that the postal traffic has reduced rather it is increasing.
10	Classification of various mails. There are new demands for services on account new needs like corporate mail.	Items 2,3 (III) Action Report No. III	There is a need to clarify the status of Book Post Mail-removal of restriction of hand written message, removal of exemption from liability responsibilities and enhancement of ex-gratia compensation.
11	There is no addition in the number of persons on the job at any level for collection and delivery of mail.	Item No. 3.1.1 Action Report No. I.	A small task group should draw out perspective plan for dealing with special requirement of industria townships/suburbs/corporate section
		Item No. 3.10 Action Report No. 1	There is a need to redeploy the personnel in certain urban centres where there has been some curtailment in the frequency of daily mail.
12	Increase in the deficit of earnings and expenses.	No such earlier recommendations.	The deficit is because the department has to provide services at rates below the cost.
13	Induct Professionals on its senior staff.	Do.	
14	There is a need to change in the name of Postal Services Board.	Item No. 2 (II) of Action Report III	There is a need to functional and financial independence to the Postal Department and in turn the Postal Board should function in lot more colesion and with better coordination that at present.

Research done by Telecom Research Centre

79. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas in which research is being done at the Telecom Research Centre;

(b) what is the total amount of expenditure incurred by Government on the T. R. C.; and

(c) what has been the extent of savings or commercial benefits to Government for the research done by the T. R. C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM: (a) to (c) The original Telecom Research Centre (TRC) under Department of Telecommunications set up in 1956 continued till 1988. Thereafter, the TRC was bifurcated into "TRC Society" and "Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC)". The TRC Society was, entrusted with exclusive development of Transmission systems. The TRC Society, subsequently, was merged with Centre for Development of Telematics in 1989, which was doing R&D activities in Switching since its inception in August, 1984.

C-DOT is an autonomous body carrying out, at present, all the research and development activities in Switching and Transmission areas required for telecommunications for development of Telecom products in the country.

The total amount of expenditure incurred on C-DOT since its inception in August, 1984 till 31st March, 1993 is about Rs. 174,35 crores.

The total number of telephone lines of C-DOT design, which has so far been produced by the various manufacturers in the country is about 1.7 million lines. The sale value of this equipment comes to about Rs. 725 crores.

Telephone Facilities in the Industrial Areas of Tamil Nadu

80. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecommunication facilities have been provided to all the industrial areas of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of those industrial areas in which Government propose to provide these facilities and the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir, Telephone facilities have been provided in the following industrial areas as per requisition received from Tamil Nadu State Government.

(1) Gummidipoondi (2) Maraimalai Nagar (3) Ranipet (4) Cuddalore (5) Hosur (6) Tuticorin & (7) Pudukotai.

(c) As per approval accorded by Government of India, "GROWTH CENTRES" are being set up at (i) Ingur-Perundurai in Erode SSA and (ii) Gangaikondan in Mannur Block in Tirunelveli SSA;

Monitoring of progress by regular co tact with State Government Authoriti for provision of telecom facilities is mad Presently, land acquisition is under pr cess in these places. As such, telepho lines will be required to be installed about 2 to 3 years. These will be provi ed as per the requisition of State Gover ments Entrepreneurs.

(d) Does not arise in view of the rep at (c) above.

Supply of Digital Switches

81. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICA TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any offer has been receive by Government for the supply of digita switches;

(b) if so, the number of such offer and the rates quoted by each of the bid der;

(c) whether each bidder has cleare the validation test;

(d) if so, whether any decision ha been taken for placing orders for the sup ply of digital switches; and

(e) what are the details of criteria fix ed for placing of the orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OI THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA TIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Offers were recieved from thirteer bidders. However, offers of five bidder were not technically responsive. Th names of the remaining eight bidders an the per line prices are given in the en closed statement. (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.